in the these animal studies, appropriate regulatory clearances will be obtained before human phase-I trial is conducted in normal healthy adults (Both Men and Women) at low or no risk of acquiring HIV infection.

Presently there is no call given to youth for participation in the trial.

Radiation therapy machines

565. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that rediation therapy machines in AIIMS and LNJP Hospital are lying idle for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for not putting them in operational condition; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) In All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, no radiation therapy machines is lying idle. In LNJP Hospital which is the Govt. of NCT, Delhi the Brachytherapy machine which is 13 year old is not operational with effect from 23-10-2003. Major repairs in that machine have been advised by the Maintenance Engineers.

Protection of patient's rights

566. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered appointing impartial ombudsmen for observers in Government hospitals to protect patients' rights and ensure staff accountability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the existing machinery to keep a watch on the negligence or improper/inadequate treatment given to patients;

(d) whether the existing machinery is working satisfactorily; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to fine-tune the mechanism for providing better services to the patients and also to ensure greater accountability of the hospital staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) At present there is no proposal for appointing impartial ombudsmen for observers in Central Government Hospitals, under consideration. There is, however, a system of addressing public grievances in place in such hospitals. Grievances Redressal Officers have been appointed in the Central Government Hospitals and their names, designation, telephone numbers with their room number(s) are displayed at strategic prominent places in the hospital premises for the information of the patients and the general public. Complaint boxes are also affixed at various places in the hospitals. The complaints received from patients are attended to promptly, appropriate redressal of the complaints is undertaken and whenever, necessary corrective measures are also taken. The existing machinery is working satisfactorily.

Radiotherapy department of Safdarjung Hospital

567. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Radiotherapy Department of the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, has been shut down recently.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the alternative arrangements made to provide radiotherapy treatment to the cancer patients, especially the poor who cannot afford private care;

(c) the number of patients who were under treatment at the time of closing down the Department, and the advice tendered to them for further treatment; and

(d) the average monthly new patients registered at the Radiotherapy Department during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Radiotherapy Department of the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi was not shut down and only new patients were stopped for radiotherapy treatment for a short while for want of fulfillment of technical parameters stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The new patients during the period were however, referred to Radiotherapy Departments of two Government hospitals, namely the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Lok Nayak Hospital. The Department of Radiotherapy of the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi is fully functional now. The average monthly attendance of new patients registered in Department of Radiotherapy during the last three years is 167.